(b) if not the details of the purchases made during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) JCI has purchased 4,71,389 bales of raw jute from West Bengal upto 12.11.92 during the 1992-93 jute season.

Revival of NTC Mills

467. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions was held unit-wise, in NTC mills between the management and the workers for their revival so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Managements of the Subsidiary Corporation of NTC have held discussions with the representatives of the Unions of respective mills, on the strategy to turn around the mills of NTC. These discussions included proposed modernisation schemes, beed for curtailment of uneconomic activities, retraining and redeployment of workers/ employees opting for retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme etc.

Closure of NTC Mills

468. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down some NTC mills in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC. The key elements of this strategy would be selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Voluntary Retirement Scheme will also be offered to the officers, staff and workers of such chronically sick mills, which have no possibility of viability and which may have to be closed down or merged with adjacent units to ensure viability.

Cotton Production and Demand

469. SHRI YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton likely to be produced during this year along with the carry over stock; and

(b) the expected demand of cotton this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) According to the Cotton Advisory Board which met on 9.10.92, the opening balance of cotton during the cotton season 1992-93 has been determined at 32.96 lakh bales and the quantity of cotton production has been determined in the range of 120-125 lakh bales. The mill and non-mill consumption has been estimated at 105 lakh bales and 8.00 lakh respectively.

Sick Textiles Mills

470. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the number of sick textiles mills in different States and since when these are sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): As per information furnished by Board

for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), there are 226 mills registered with BIFR as on 31.10.92 The State-wise figure is given below:—

S.No.	Name of the State	No of Mills
1.	Bihar	2
2.	West Bengal	14
3.	Orissa	2
4.	Uttar Pradesh	27
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Punjab	4
7.	Haryana	8
8.	Chandigarh	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—
10.	Rajasthan	15
11.	Gujarat	49
12.	Maharashtra	41
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10
14.	Andhra Pradesh	12
15.	Karnataka	14
16.	Tamil Nadu	22
17.	Kerala	4
	Total	226

Out of the above, 70 mills have been registered with BIFR in 1987, 50 mills in 1988, 33 mills in 1989, 24 mills in 1990, 23 mills in 1991 and 26 mills in 1992 (as on 31st October, 1992).

Ginning Industry

471. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the installed capacity of ginning industry in the country and their number as on date;

(b) the number of sick gins out of the above; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to overcome sickness in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There are about 3600 ginning and pressing units installed in nine major cotton growing States. Of these approximately 2800 are exclusively ginning units, 700 are combined units consisting of both ginning and pressing. About 100 units are exclusively pressing units. Their capacity in terms of number of gins and presses are approximately—gins 47000, presses 800 respectively.

(b) No extensive survey was done in the past, regarding the health of ginning inudstry earlier.

(c) The Ministry of Textiles has drawn up an Action Plan for upgrading the ginning and pressing facilities in the cotton growing States. A few ginneries in certain States have been identified for installation of Pneumatic Suction systems for conveying kapas to the gin house. The Banking Division of Ministry of Finance has instructed the banks to extend loan to the selected ginning and pressing units for their modernisation.

Setting up of Handloom Development Fund

472. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's considerations to set up 'separate handloom development fund' for weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of hank yarn have increased so much that the handloom industry is not able to compete with other sectors in the textile industry; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the measures under Government's contemplation to supply hank yarn to weavers at subsidised prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed intervention through the Handloom Development Fund (HDF) will have an area specific thrust. The objective is to provide sustained income to handloom weavers affected by forces of economy and to provide better returns on their employment. The schemes sanctioned through this fund will provide for the following: